

***Neocapsus cuneatus* Distant in Arizona and Texas,
with a Variety Described from Mississippi and
North Carolina (Heteroptera, Miridae).***

By HARRY H. KNIGHT, Ames, Iowa.

In his Catalogue of the Nearctic Hemiptera-Heteroptera (1910), Mr. Banks recorded *Neocapsus cuneatus* Distant from Texas. Mr. Van Duzee gives no additional records in his Catalogue of Hemiptera (1917), and as late as 1919 does not recognize the genus from the United States in his keys to genera of Nearctic Miridae (Univ. Calif. Publ., Vol. I, p. 220).

Recently I have received a specimen from Mr. A. A. Nichol, collected June 15, 1924, Santa Rita Mountains, Arizona, which agrees very closely with the figure and description of *Neocapsus cuneatus* Distant (Biol. Centr. Am., Heter., I, p. 438, Pl. 38, fig. 6, 1893). For some time I have also had a mutilated and unplaced specimen of the same species, collected May 31, Chiricahua Mountains, Arizona. The rather coarsely but shallowly punctured pronotum and hemelytra with transversely striated scutellum, coupled with the color characters, would seem sufficient to recognize *cuneatus* Distant. In the description of the genus *Neocapsus*, Distant mentions the "pilose" character of the pubescence (apparently in the Dipterous sense), but in describing *cuneatus* this character is not mentioned.

The present specimens identified as *Neocapsus cuneatus* Distant, have the dorsum nearly glabrous, the pubescence being very minute, somewhat appressed and scale-like, apparently with one such hair in each puncture on pronotum and hemelytra. The Arizona specimens have the scutellum partly yellow, while a specimen from College Station, Texas (Mar. 24, 1904), has the pronotum, scutellum and cunei orange yellow, with a pale area appearing on basal half of corium.

Specimens are at hand from Mississippi and North Carolina which at first glance would be taken for *Neocapsus cuneatus* with a reddish yellow scutellum. However, close inspection shows the scutellum to be entirely smooth, without a suggestion of the apparently distinctive transversely striated surface of

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cuneatus Distant. The smooth character of the scutellum may be merely a variation or race characteristic of the eastern form, but with such a difference present it seems best to use a varietal name rather than make the mistake of recording a Mexican species from the eastern United States, a form which eventually might prove distinct when biological studies are made.

***Neocapsus cuneatus* var. *leviscutatus* new variety.**

Length 5.5-5.9 mm.; the larger specimen with pronotum 2.5 mm. wide at base and 1.34 mm. in length. Very similar to *cuneatus* Distant, but the scutellum entirely smooth; shining black, pronotum and scutellum orange red, but with subbasal margin of pronotal disk, calli, and anteriorly, except collar, more or less black; front of head reddish, but with black appearing on tylus and just above base of antennae.

Described from a male, May 7, 1915, Agricultural College, Mississippi (G. F. Arnold); author's collection. Two females, June 20, Linville Falls, North Carolina, alt. 4000 ft. (F. Sherman).

The genus *Neocapsus* Distant is very similar to *Horcias* Distant, and, in fact, will prove hard to separate in a key, although the shallowly and sparsely punctate pronotal disk of the former can be pointed out as different from the nearly smooth disk of the latter. In *cuneatus* Distant the pronotum appears shorter and broader, also the head is noticeably shorter than in *Horcias dislocatus* (Say).

Coleoptera of the Pacific Coast, Notes and Criticisms.

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***Omus reynoldsi* Casey, Memoirs, XI, 1924, p. 5.**

This form of *Omus cupreconitens* B. & R. has recently been described and based upon a single male specimen, which, on account of its narrow form and subcuneate elytra, suggested the grade of subspecies. Coleopterists of the Pacific Coast are well aware that a certain per cent. of the males of several species of *Omus* have the elytra gradually narrowing to base and the humeri obsolete. The form under discussion was considered by Mr. Reynolds and myself in our description of the